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SECURITY INFORMATION

REPORT

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COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

SUBJECT Spolana, National Enterprise,
Neratovice

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REPORT NO.

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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1. The Spolana National Enterprise in Neratovice N 50-16, E 14-317 produced various chemical products, the chief of which were rayon staple fiber, chlorine, and caustic soda. The plant was formerly a part of the United Chemical Works (Spolek pro chemickou a hutní výrobu), but in January 1950 the factory became an independent enterprise directly subordinate to the Ministry of Chemical Industry. A small chemical factory at Vranany N 50-19, E 14-227 was subordinated to the Spolana plant in January 1950.
2. The construction of the Spolana plant started sometime in 1940 in the area of the then Biochema plant, which was a factory for production mainly of canned foodstuffs, chocolate, candies, and vinegar. The Biochema plant was directly subordinate to the main Biochema plant at Brno-Modrice and was the property of the United Chemical Works. The only other Biochema plant was at Babice N 49-17, E 16-427. The Biochema concern was nationalized in 1945 and named Fruta National Enterprise. (The Biochema concern was originally owned by the Wholesale Purchasing Association for Consumers Cooperatives (Grosseinkauf-Gesellschaft für Konsumvereine) in Prague, an organization of the German Social Democratic Party in Czechoslovakia. This organization was liquidated in Autumn 1938). Starting in 1940, the Biochema installations in Neratovice were demolished step by step and buildings of the new Spolana plant were erected in their place. With the exception of the vinegar factory, which has

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since been incorporated in the Spolana plant, all production at the Biochema plant at Neratovice stopped in 1944. The construction of the Spolana plant was not yet finished in the Summer of 1952, one building for the production of sulphuric acid and superphosphates and one building for the production of cellophane still being under construction at that date. During World War II it was planned to construct a new cellulose factory in the plant and use the cellulose produced there in the production of rayon. Up to July 1952 the construction of a cellulose factory had not been started, and it is possible that this plan was abandoned, and that it had been decided to supply the Spolana plant with cellulose from a new cellulose factory [redacted] under construction in Stetl N 50-27, E 14-23 in the Autumn of 1951. 25X1

3. For the location of the Spolana Plant, see Enclosure A. For the layout of the factory buildings, see Enclosure B. There was a tower of iron construction 100 m. high in the Spolana factory yard, somewhere in the space between the power station Encl. B, Pt. 12 and the sulphuric acid and superphosphates production building Encl. B, Pt. 147. [redacted] 25X1

[redacted] There was a spur track from the Neratovice RR station to the plant. The main road between Prague, Neratovice, and Melnik N 50-21, E 14-29 was in poor condition. (Reconstruction of this road was planned but had not yet started as of 1952.) However, the Spolana plant was located close to the Elbe River and had its own port facilities, and the bulk of transportation to and from the plant was by water. The plant had a power station, 16,000 kw., located in the plant area Encl. B, Pt. 12 and a hydroelectric power station of its own on the Elbe River, south of the plant area Encl. A, Pt. 2.

4. The plant had new first-class production equipment partly from Czechoslovakia and partly from Germany. [redacted] 25X1

[redacted] Also, all the plant's laboratories were very well equipped, especially the photographic laboratories. There was a small institute for research concerning the production of protective building materials. This was the only research institute in the plant.

5. The production of the Spolana plant was as follows: viscose rayon staple fiber of both wool and cotton types, chlorine, caustic soda, bones and skin glue and gelatine, bone powder, starch, dextrin, vinegar, glucose, saccharine, insecticides, and herbicides. About 60 tn. of rayon staple fiber, 45 tn. of chlorine, and 50 tn. of caustic soda were produced there daily. [redacted] 25X1

[redacted] The plant used an average of 20 tn. of salt yearly. This salt was from East Germany and supplied by the Soviets. The price was 165 crowns a ton, fob Schönebeck N 52-01, E 11-45 (Elbe River boat) plus about 130 crowns for transportation from Schönebeck to Neratovice. The greater part of cellulose for rayon production came from domestic sources; [redacted] 25X1

[redacted] Salt and cellulose were the only raw materials supplied to the Spolana Neratovice Plant from abroad. When production of sulphuric acid begins at the plant, 100,000 tn. of pyrites will be used there yearly, while production of superphosphate at the plant will use 50,000 tn. of raw phosphate yearly. However [redacted] production of these two items was not to start in 1953, because no pyrite or raw phosphate supplies were planned for Spolana Neratovice for this year. Of the Spolana plant products, only saccharine, glue, and rayon staple fiber were exported. (Only part of the production of each of these items was exported). The 25X1

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remaining products of the Spolana plant were used in Czechoslovakia. The rayon staple fiber proved to be of high quality and was exported mainly to the states of Areas II, III, V, and VII

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About half of the total Czechoslovak rayon staple fiber export production was produced in the Spolana plant.

6. There were about 2,000 workers and technicians, including a small number of construction workers and about 50 administrative employees, in the plant in the Summer of 1951. Ing. SORELA (fnu) was chief technician in rayon staple fiber production. He received his training in rayon staple fiber production in the I.G. Farben factories in Wolfen N 51-40, E 12-177, and Bitterfeld N 51-37, E 12-197, in 1940 and 1941. Dr. SVAB (fnu) was General Manager of the plant. SVAB was formerly deputy general manager of the United Chemical Works. He was not especially qualified for his job, but he was a good CP member. There were a plant militia and plant firemen at the factory. Persons not employed in the plant had to show an entry permit issued by the Ministry of Chemical Industry when entering the plant area. Generally speaking, the Spolana Neratovice Factory was one of the most modern chemical works in Czechoslovakia, and its products were satisfactory.
7. There was a small old factory at Vranany, which was formerly called Chemika, but which was subordinated to the Spolana National Enterprise in Neratovice in January 1950. For the location see Encl. C.7 This factory produced various special coatings for building materials. A fire damaged the factory in 1948 or 1949; reconstruction began in 1951 and was completed in 1952. The factory was supplied yearly with about 300 tn. of sulphur powder (ground sulphur) (Czechoslovakia had no sulphur mills, and all sulphur powder, about 1,200 tn. yearly, had to be imported There were about 30 employees in the Vranany Factory, which consisted of a single building. The plant had no spur track. There was a boiler house in the factory building.

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Enclosures:

- A. Spolana n.p. in Neratovice. Overlay on map: Czechoslovakia 3853/3E 1: 25,000.
- B. Spolana National Enterprise at Neratovice; Plant Layout.
- C. Spolana n.p. Neratovice Vranany Plant. Overlay on map: Czechoslovakia 3853/3W 1: 25,000.

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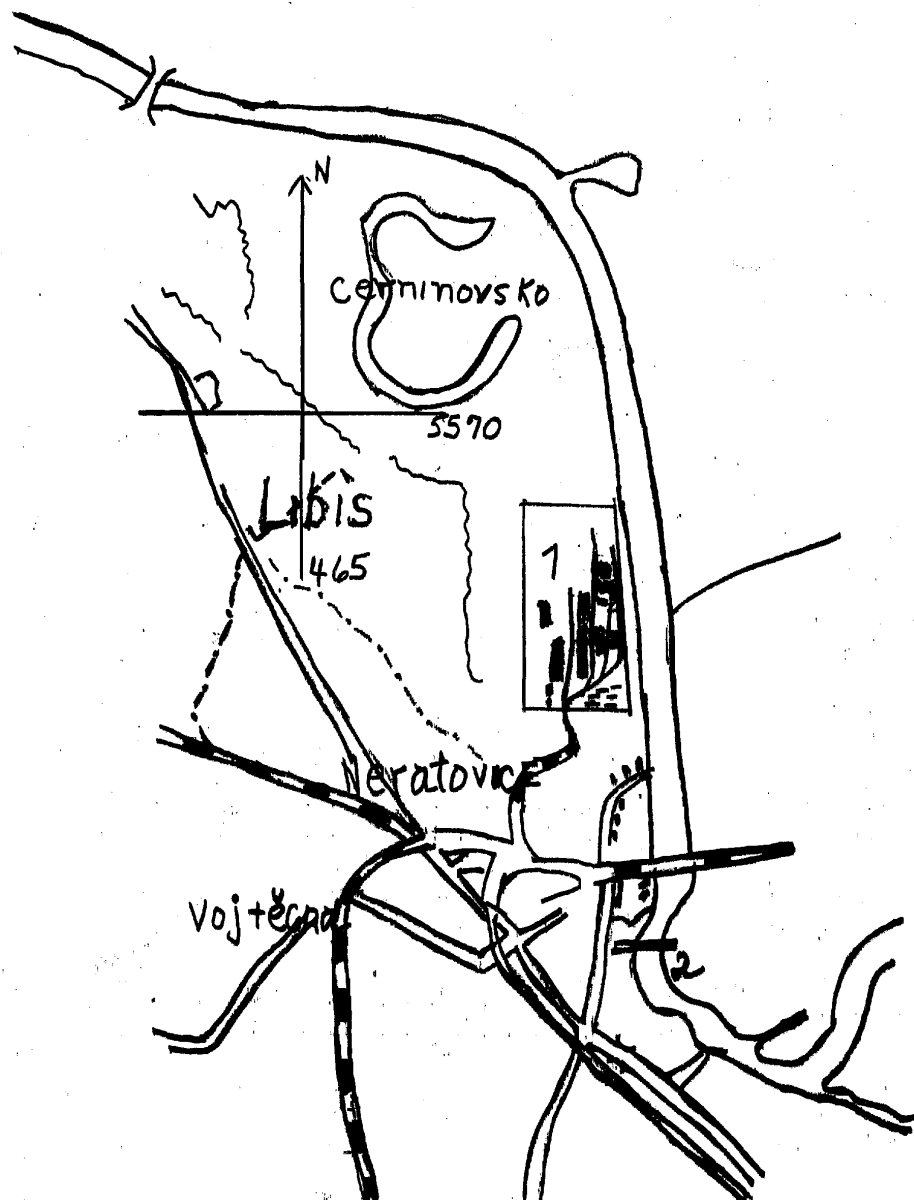
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Enclosure A

Spolana n.p. in Neratovice. Overlay on map: Czechoslovakia
3853/SE 1 : 25,000



LEGEND

1. Spolana National Enterprise.
2. Hydroelectric Power Station.

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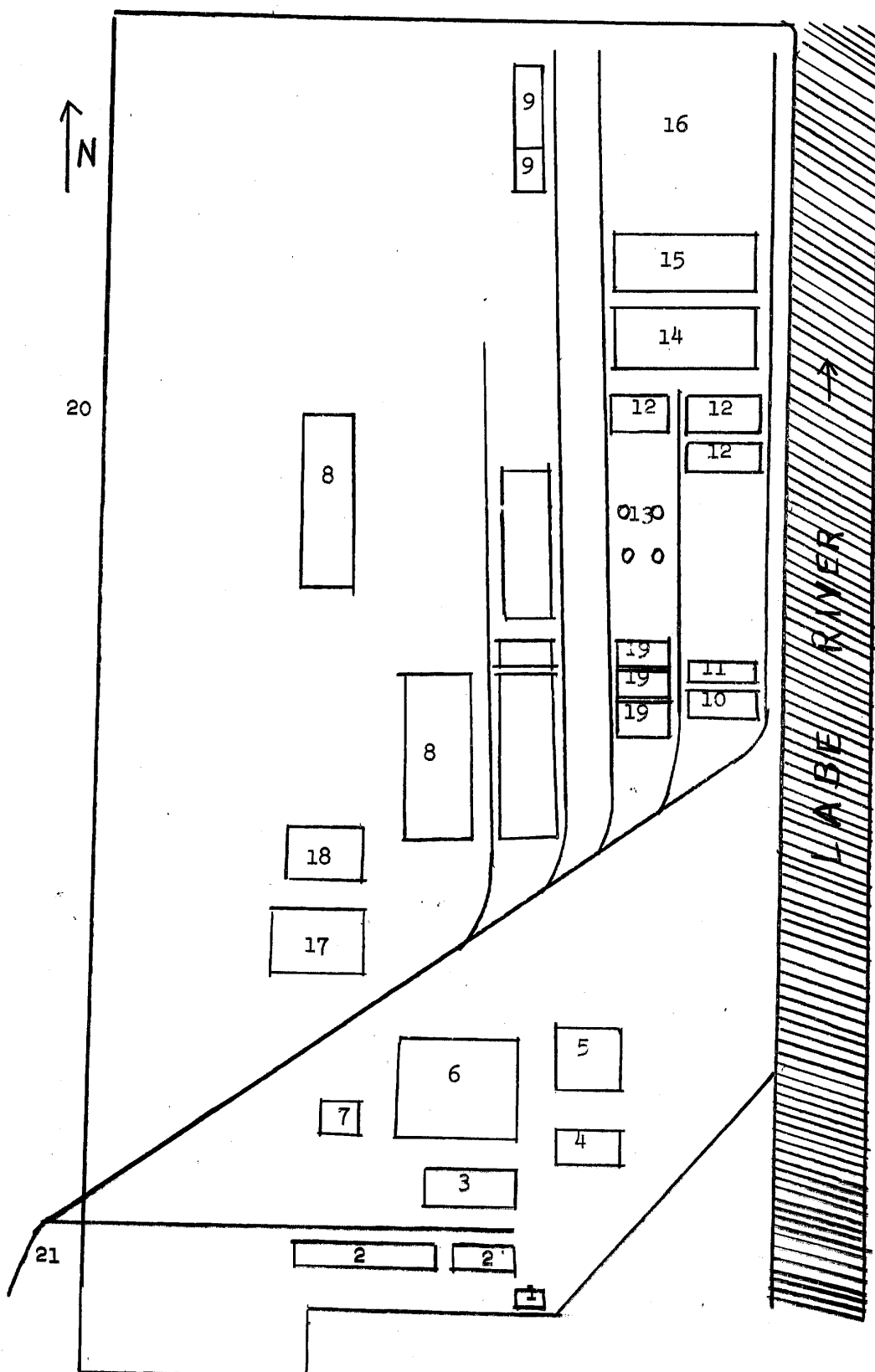
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Enclosure B

Spolana National Enterprise at Neratovice; Plant Layout.



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Enclosure B (Cont'd)

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1. Entrance and gatekeeper's house.
2. Production of starch and dextrin.
3. Production of insecticides and herbicides.
4. Production of vinegar.
5. Production of glucose.
6. Production of saccharine.
7. Laboratories.
8. Production of rayon staple fiber: the plant administration offices were on the first floor.
9. Production of glue and gelatine.
10. Salt storage.
11. Storage of raw materials.
12. Power stations.
13. Metal reservoirs: for storing liquid chemicals.
14. Production of sulphuric acid and superphosphate.
15. Production of cellophane.
16. Coal storage.
17. Canteen.
18. Temporary building: for storage of machine tools and various materials.
19. Electrolysis.
20. Factory area wall.
21. Spur track.

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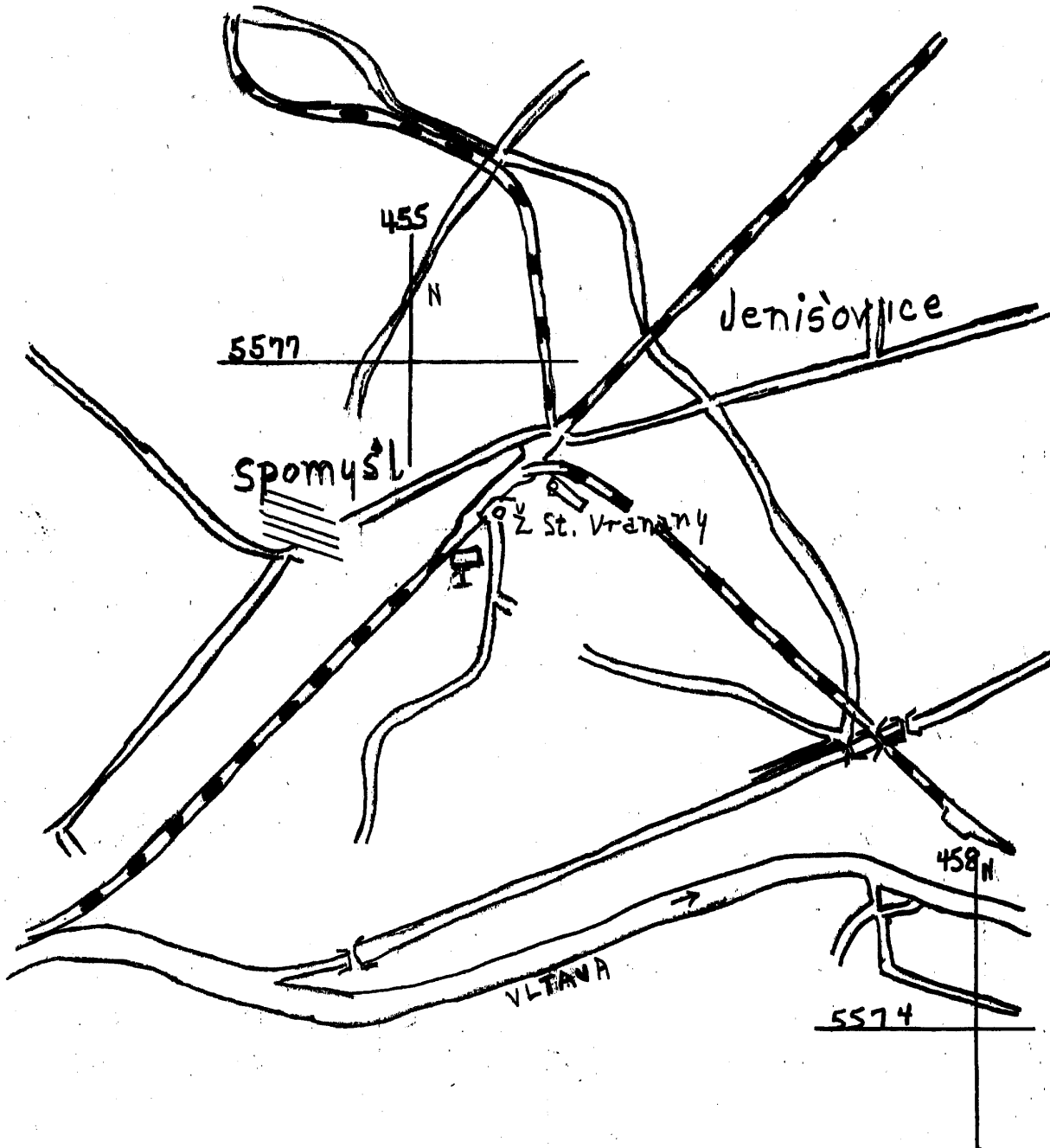
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Enclosure C

Spolana n.p. Neratovice Vranany Plant. Overlay on map:
Czechoslovakia 3853/3W 1 : 25,000



LEGEND

1. Spolana National Enterprise, Neratovice, Plant in Vranany.
2. Institute for Raising Beet Seeds.

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